

Kids Fishing Day in Basin



Fish Passage Biologist Erin Sobel teaches participants of Basin Kids Fishing Day how to identify different species of fish.

On May 9, Game and Fish personnel assisted the Town of Basin with Basin Kids Fishing Day by stocking fish and providing educational activities. Ninety-eight youth attended the event despite cold, wet weather!

Right: Superintendant of Ten Sleep Fish Hatchery Bart Burningham and Senior Fish Culturist Brad Hughes stocked fish in the Basin raw water pond for kids fishing day.



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Bighorn River fisherman doing well

On May 2-3, Wyoming Game and Fish Department game wardens and fisheries personnel gathered on the Bighorn River near Thermopolis to check fishermen and enforce fishing laws.

“With the fish population in the Bighorn at an all-time high and an increase in anglers and boaters on the river, we wanted to see what compliance was like with fishing and boating laws,” said Scott Werbelow, Cody Region Game Warden Coordinator. “For the most part, compliance was good and Bighorn River anglers are abiding by the rules.”

Werbelow said that wardens and biologists set up on the banks of Bighorn River at strategic locations on private property to check fishermen operating drift boats. Nearly all fishermen were contacted from the Wedding of the Waters north to the north end of Thermopolis.

“Over two days, we inspected 37 boats containing 85 fishermen and seven shore fishermen. Ninety percent of fishermen checked were nonresident fly fishermen using a guide. Most fishermen were catch and release fly fishermen with only a few people checked using lures. Those utilizing lures were not nearly as successful as the fly fishermen,” Werbelow said. “A total of 252 fish were caught and released with only one fish being kept due to being hooked too deep to release.”

“Although all fisherman checked had a fishing license, five citations and four warning citations were issued. These citations were for failure to produce life jackets, fail to purchase conservation stamp, failure to purchase AIS sticker, and failure to get boat inspected prior to launching,” Werbelow said.

“Overall, compliance with fishing and boating laws was pretty good for the number of fishermen checked,” Werbelow said. “So far, all data collected from trout surveys indicate that trout populations in the Bighorn River continue to increase even though angler pressure has noticeably increased.”

“For the most part, I think the public was glad to see us out there enforcing the regulations to protect this great fishery,” Werbelow said.



An angler fishing the Bighorn River near Thermopolis.

Worland 5th grade outdoor day

Worland Game Warden Matt Lentsch organized the fifth annual Worland Outdoor Day, an outdoor educational event that fifth graders in Worland, Ten Sleep, Burlington and Manderson schools attended. Students had the opportunity to try a variety of outdoor activities including canoeing, archery, shooting, fly tying and casting, and mountain biking.



A student is instructed on how to set a trap.



Students practice canoeing at the Airport Pond in Worland.



Lovell Game Warden James Hobbs show a Worland Outdoor Day participant how to build a fishing lure.



Bear Wise Community Coordinator Dusty Lasseter instructs students on the proper use of bear spray and how to react in a bear encounter.

Game and Fish lead tours as part of Spring into Yellowstone



A group hikes up the Elk Fork on the Shoshone National Forest with Game and Fish large carnivore biologists to discuss the ecology and conservation of Yellowstone area grizzly bears.

Last month, Game and Fish lead a variety of tours as part of the third annual Spring into Yellowstone Birding and Wildlife Festival in Cody. The event showcases the wildlife, landscapes, and ecology of the Greater Yellowstone Region while educating and engaging participants in discussions related to wildlife conservation and land stewardship.



Large Carnivore biologist Luke Ellsbury points out fresh grizzly bear tracks on a guided hike up the Elk Fork trail.

Game and Fish lead tours as part of Spring into Yellowstone



Participants of the “Wings of the Night” tour of Sprit Mountain Cave near Cody prepare to enter the cave with BLM Biologist Destin Harrell and Wyoming Game and Fish Department Non Game Biologist Laura Beard.



Left: Terrestrial Habitat Biologist Jerry Altermatt leads an interpretative habitat hike along the Shoshone River through Cody to discuss the flora and fauna commonly found in riparian areas.



Devils Canyon bighorn sheep lamb survey



Lovell Game Warden James Hobbs and Greybull Game Warden Bill Robinson glassing across Devil's Canyon at some well camouflaged lambs on the cliffs.

Each year Game and Fish staff complete lamb surveys for Devil's Canyon sheep from ATV on the accessible side of the canyon. A total of ten ewes, seven lambs, two yearlings, and two rams were spotted. Based on our small sample size, we can tentatively say that lamb production is going good for this herd. There was some cold, wet weather later in the month which may have caused some lamb mortality, but we don't know for sure yet.



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